

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1 and 10 and leaves claims 2-8 and 11-17 unchanged. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-8 and 10-17.

Applicants' attorney, the undersigned, and Applicants' Japanese representative Tetsuro Owa wish to thank Examiner Parton and Primary Examiner Andrew Caldwell for the courtesy extended during the interview of September 10, 2003. Based on such interview, the present Amendment is being filed.

During the interview, proposed amendments were presented so as to distinguish the features of the present invention from the references of record. Upon review and discussion of the proposed Amendment, it was agreed that the Amendment would overcome the references of record, particularly Hansen (U.S. Patent No. 5,838,907). The present Amendment incorporates the proposed amendments presented during the interview.

Thus, the present Amendment amends the claims to recite features not taught or suggested by any of the references of record, particularly Hansen. Therefore, the various rejections of claims 1-8 and 10-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansen in combination with one or more of Sidey (U.S. Patent No. 5,954,797), Chrichton (U.S. Patent No. 6,104,716), Antur (U.S. Patent No. 6,243,815) and Reid (U.S. Patent No. 6,182,226) should be reconsidered and withdrawn being that the features of the present invention as now recited in the claims were determined by agreement with the Examiner as not being taught or

suggested by Hansen taken individually or in combination with Sidey, Chrichton, Antur or Reid.

During the interview, it was shown that the present invention is directed to a network management system having a plurality of network devices operating in a coordinated manner and a management server managing the network devices. According to the present invention the management server includes means for generating a plurality of pieces of setup information based on predefined meta-level information to be used for the network devices on which settings are to be made, wherein the plurality of pieces of setup information are generated to maintain consistency in operation of the network devices, and means for confirming consistency of the setup information setup in the network devices based on the meta-level information. The plurality of pieces of setup information are distributed to the network devices

Unique according to the present invention is that the meta-level information is information to be used as a source for generating setup information for each of the plurality of network devices in a network according to a predefined policy for operating the network in a coordinated manner. Thus, according to the present invention, the meta-level information is used as a source for deriving or generating the setup information.

The features of the present invention are, for example, discussed with respect to Fig. 5 of the present application on page 10, line 15 through page 11, line 16, and

with respect to Fig. 7 of the present application, as described on page 12, line 17 through page 14, line 5.

According to the present invention, the meta-level information is a policy file 405 that includes a network information section 501 and a policy section 502. As per the present invention, setup files are generated based on the policy file 405 as discussed on page 12, lines 17-18 of the present application and each setup file is transferred to the corresponding device as discussed on page 14, lines 2-5 of the present application. Thus, according to the present invention the setup files and policy files are related to each other.

Therefore, as discussed during the interview, according to the present invention, the same meta-level information controls operation of multiple devices and is used to confirm operation of those devices. These features of the present invention are clearly not taught or suggested by any of the references of record, particularly Hansen, Sidey, Chrichton, Antur and Reid, whether taken individually or in combination with each other, as suggested by the Examiner.

Hansen discloses a configuration manager for remotely configuring a network device. Hansen teaches that the configuration manager includes a configuration script stored in a memory system of a computer system and that the configuration script contains a series of executable instructions for constructing a configuration file for a specified type of network device. The configuration file as taught by Hansen contain information, such as Internet protocol (or IP) address, default gateway, router name, and simplified network management protocol (SNMP). Thus, the

configuration file as taught by Hansen are communication strings necessary for the network device to properly communicate on the network. As taught by Hansen, the configuration script 12 also identifies the network devices which are configurable by the network device configuration tool 10.

Therefore, Hansen simply teaches a configuration manager and an associated method of configuring a remote network device from a central location.

As discussed during the interview, Hansen teaches that the configuration script 12 identifies types of network devices and network entities which may be placed on the network configuration map and interconnected with other network entities and network devices, the map files contain a series of network configuration maps each comprised of a series of interconnected network devices and network entities constructed using the network device configuration tool 10 and the local configuration files contain information, if uploaded to the corresponding network device, would enable configuration of that device. The Examiner's attention is directed to col. 5, lines 13-21 and lines 39-64.

As per Hansen, the setup files are distributed to the network devices contrary to the meta-level information of the present invention. According to the present invention, the meta-level information is maintained for use as a source for deriving or generating the setup information. Thus, according to the present invention, any changes in the setup files are made in accordance with changes in the meta-level information.

In Hansen, the configuration manager does not distribute setup files to each device based on meta-level information maintained at the configuration manager as in the present invention. Further, in Hansen, the local configuration files used in each of the network devices are not generated based upon preset meta-level information defining the coordination between the network devices as in the present invention.

Thus, as agreed during the interview, the features of the present invention as now clearly more clearly recited in the claims are not taught or suggested by Hansen.

The above-noted deficiencies of Hansen are not supplied by any of the other references of record. For example, Sidey merely teaches the confirming of corrections to configuration information at col. 9, lines 33-60. This teaching of Sidey does not provide the above-noted deficiencies of Hansen. This same deficiency can be found in each of the other references of record, namely Chrichton, Antur and Reid, utilized by the Examiner in combination with Hansen to reject the claims of the present application. Therefore, even if Hansen is combined with one or more of Sidey, Chrichton, Antur or Reid in the manner suggested by the Examiner in the Office Action, the combination still fails to teach or suggest the features of the present invention as now more clearly recited in the claims.

Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of the various rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

The remaining references of record have been studied. Applicants submit that they do not supply any of the deficiencies noted above with respect to the references utilized for the rejections of claims 1-8 and 10-17.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that claims 1-8 and 10-17 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of the present application based on claims 1-8 and 10-17 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Deposit Account No. 01-2135 (referencing attorney docket no. 500.38711X00).

Respectfully submitted,

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